CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A pharmaceutical composition for use (or when in use) in the treatment of FSD, preferably FSAD; the pharmaceutical composition comprising an agent capable of potentiating cAMP in the sexual genitalia of a female suffering from FSD, preferably FSAD; wherein the agent is optionally admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

2. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein the agent is a mediator of genital (e.g. vaginal or clitoral) vasorelaxation.

3. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the composition is for oral administration.

4. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the said cAMP is endogenous cAMP.

5. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the composition is applied before or during sexual stimulation.

6. Use of an agent in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of FSD, preferably FSAD; wherein the agent is capable of potentiating cAMP in the sexual genitalia of a female suffering from FSD, preferably FSAD.

7. Use according to claim 6 wherein the agent is a mediator of genital (e.g. vaginal or clitoral) vasorelaxation.

8. Use according to claim 6 or claim 7 wherein the medicament is for oral administration.

9. Use according to any one of claims 6 to 8 wherein the said cAMP is endogenous cAMP.

10. Use according to any one of claims 6 to 9 wherein the composition is applied before or during sexual stimulation.

11. A method of treating a female (such as a female suffering from FSD, preferably FSAD); the method comprising delivering to the female an agent that is capable of potentiating cAMP in the sexual genitalia; wherein the agent is in an amount to cause potentiation of cAMP in the sexual genitalia of the female; wherein the agent is optionally admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the agent is a mediator of genital (e.g. vaginal or clitoral) vasorelaxation.

13. A method according to claim 11 or claim 12 wherein the agent is orally administered.

14. A method according to any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein the said cAMP is endogenous cAMP.

15. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 11 to 14 wherein the composition is applied before or during sexual stimulation.

16. An assay method for identifying an agent that can be used to treat FSD, in particular FSAD, the assay method comprising: determining whether an agent can directly or indirectly potentiate cAMP; wherein a potentiation of cAMP in the presence of the agent is indicative that the agent may be useful in the treatment of FSD, in particular FSAD.

17. A process comprising the steps of:

(a) performing the assay according to claim 16;

(b) identifying one or more agents that can directly or indirectly potentiate cAMP; and

(c) preparing a quantity of those one or more identified agents.

18. A method of treating FSD, preferably FSAD, by potentiating *in vivo* cAMP with an agent;

wherein the agent is capable of directly or indirectly potentiating cAMP in an *in vitro* assay method;

wherein the *in vitro* assay method is the assay method defined in claim 16.

19. Use of an agent in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of FSD, preferably FSAD, the agent is capable of directly or indirectly potentiating cAMP when assayed *in vitro* by the assay method according to claim 16.

20. An agent identified by the assay method according to claim 16.

21. An agent according to claim 20 for use in medicine.

22. An agent according to claim 21 for use in treating FSD, preferably FSAD.

23. A medicament for oral administration to treat FSD, preferably FSAD, wherein the medicament comprises the agent according to claim 20.

24. A diagnostic method, the method comprising isolating a sample from a female; determining whether the sample contains an entity present in such an amount to cause FSD, preferably FSAD, or is in an amount so as to cause FSD, preferably FSAD; wherein the entity has a direct or indirect effect on the level or activity of cAMP in the sexual genitalia of the female.

25. A diagnostic composition or kit comprising means for detecting an entity in an isolated female sample; wherein the means can be used to determine whether the sample contains the entity and in such an amount to cause FSD, preferably FSAD, or is in an amount so as to cause FSD, preferably FSAD; wherein the entity has a direct or indirect effect on the level or activity of cAMP in the sexual genitalia of the female.

26. An animal model used to identify agents capable of treating FSD, preferably FSAD, said model comprising an anaesthetised female animal including means to measure changes in genital (e.g. vaginal or clitoral) blood flow of said animal following stimulation of the pelvic nerve thereof.

27. An assay method for identifying an agent that can directly or indirectly potentiate cAMP in order to treat FSD, preferably FSAD, the assay method comprising: administering an agent to the animal model of claim 26; and measuring any potentiation of cAMP and/or increase in blood flow in the genital (e.g. vaginal or clitoral) of said animal.

28. An agent identified by the assay method according to claim 27.

29. The invention according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said cAMP is endogenous cAMP (as defined herein).